Perhectares income from Cultivation of rice, wheat etc.

753. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the net income perhectare from rice, wheat, jowar and ground nut cultivation have gone down consistently in all the States since 1984; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Available data indicates that the net income per hectare have shown an increase in respect of wheat in major producing states while in case of rice, jowar and groundnut, there has been a fixed trend.

It is the policy of the Government to ensure farmers with remunerative prices and a fair return to them with a view to encourage higher production and investment.

Development of Colonies by DDA

754. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many colonies were developed by D.D.A. in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) what were the details thereof;

(c) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has taken them over for providing them with water, electricity and other civic amenities; and

(d) whether some colonies have not yet been taken over if so, what is the number and names of such colonies and by when they are likely to be taken over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Betel Leaf Cultivation

755. SHRI B. SATAYNARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the cultivation of betel leaf;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any research and development programme on betel leaf;

(c) whether root wilt disease is considerably affecting production of betel leaf in several parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Various measures have been taken up to improve cultivation of betel leaf. These measures include (i) providing loans to growers by NABARD through Co-operatives for cultivation (ii) supply of plant protection chemicals and fertilizers through Co-operatives and other dealers and (iii) taking up All India Co-ordinated Research Project with a view to work out practical measures for control of diseases, betterment of agro-techniques and selection of improved varieties by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

(c) and (d) Root rot/wilt diseases have been reported to cause some losses in production in States like Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Maharashtra. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research is conducting multi-locational trials to assess the distribution of the diseases as well as to devise suitable control measures. Disease free planting materials are also supplied to the growers.